POETS JESTS,

OR

Mirth in Abundance

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Bow-Lane, London.

All you that Merriment do love,
To eaſe a troubled Mind,
Read this Book, and you therein
Great Store of Mirth will find.

Here's pretty Stories freſh and new,
'Till now were ne'er in print;
You'll ſay, if well this book you view
There's Mirth and Paſtime in't.

THE PREFACE.

GOOD Reader, here I do not tell
Of bulls and bears, and lions cell,
And dragons which affright men;
Of Fortunatus and his purſe,
Of Pacolet and his Wooden Horſe,
Nor Ladies which delight men.

Don Quixote's mills we do not ſpeak of,
Majic enchatments we do not treat of,
King Oberon and his Faries;
Mandevile's Travels we omit,
As for our ſubject nothing fit,
But what you find here rare is.

'Tis witty Jeſts ſome old, ſome new,
The major part are very true,
As you may find hereafter;
Pray hold your ſides before you read,
For I do ſay without good heed,
You'll burſt your ſides with laughter.

THE

THE POET JESTS.

A Poet, meeting ſome Serjeants of the Compter, whom he knew, they aſked him to drink, which he accepted. Then one of them aſked him, if he would eat? He thankfully anſwered, Yes. So they ſent for ſome roaſt beef, of which he eat heartily every now and then crying, They are the pillars of the nation! which they took particular notice of; and as ſoon as he had eat his fill, deſired him to explain his meaning. Truly, replied he, I did ſay, You were the pillars of the nation, but I meant the Catterpillars. — At which they were much aſhamed.

Another

Another Poet having the ſole of his ſhoe looſe, went to borrow a knife to cut it off, where he met one of his acquaintance, who aſked him, how his body did? Truly ſaid he, my body is well, but my ſole is in a bad way and I fear I ſhall loſe it.--At which his friend was amazed, and wiſhed him not to deſpair.—— With that the poet held up his foot, and ſhewed him his ſole.——— At which his friend laughed, and made him drink for his Jeſt's ſake.

A man uſed to call his wife Warming Pan, and made her go to-bed firſt in winter, to warm his place, and then turned her into the cold. At which ſhe was vexed, and vowed revenge. So to-bed ſhe went one night, and very orderly beſhit it.—By-and-by he comes, bidding her turn out, which ſhe did. Then he jumped into bed, and lying down was ſo beſmeared, that you might have ſmelt him down ſtairs. On which he cried out You have beſhit the bed; but ſhe anſwered, It was only a cinder dropped from the Warming Pan.

One

One having a daughter married very young, told her, She would be invited to chriſtenings and burials with others, and ſhe muſt obſerve, when the wine has gone two or three times about, the women will begin to tattle merrily, and you muſt not ſit like a child as you uſed, but muſt find ſome diſcourſe or other.—So it happened that in a ſhort time ſhe was invited out to a chriſtening, and finding her mother's words true, ſhe reſolved to ſay ſomething, but ſhe knew not what. At laſt ſhe jogged the next woman, ſaying, Pray Madam, had your mother ever a child ?—The other anſwered, How do you think I came here elſe ?—O I cry you mercy, ſaid ſhe, indeed I meant your grandfather.—This expreſſion ſet them all in a laughter.

A man having lain moſt part of the night with another man's wife, got up very early next morning to go home, and in the darſt miſtook, putting on one of her red ſtockings, inſtead of his own, which was grey.—But by that time he got home it was broad day; ſo his wife

per-

perceived the red ſtockings, How now, quoth ſhe, how came you by this red ſtocking?—Alas, ſaid he, I was waſhing myſelf laſt night with a ſoldier, and in the dark put on one of his red ſtockings inſtead of my own.—And ſo the poor woman was deceived.

One talking with another concerning murders, the other ſaid, Surely men were drunk when they committed ſuch cruel things.—Aye, ſaid the other, but he that kills a man when he is drunk, muſt be hanged for it when he is ſober.

One going to market to buy himſelf a cheeſe, aſked a countryman the price of one; who anſwered ſeven groats.—No, ſays the other, I will give you half a crown.—Well, ſays the countryman, I will not ſtand with you. So he gives him half a crown, and ran homewards with ſpeed.—His wife ſeeing him thus puff and blow, aſked him what was the matter? He ſaid, The man asked me ſeven groats for his cheeſe, but I have popped

ped him off with half a crown, and ſo came home to tell you.

One being newly married, fell out with his wife, who called him Cuckold, which fretted him ſorely, and at laſt he ſaid, How the Devil came ſhe to know that I was a cuckold? Now I ſhall be told of it ſufficiently.

A gentleman being belated upon the road, took up his inn at a houſe upon the road, where he perceived a young handſome woman matched to a feeble old man, and minding her youth and his age, he put on the boldneſs to ask her for a trial of his ſkill, to which ſhe agreed willingly, if he could find out a convenient place.—So in ſhort, they both agreed upon a houſe of eaſement; unto which they went and were very buſy. In the interim the old man had occaſion to go there, but finding the door ſhut and faſt, he asked who was there? The perſon anſwered, A friend.—Open the door then, ſays the old man.—No, ſays the other; I am buſy.—Ay, ſaid he

but

but there are two holes in the place.—It is true true, ſaid he, I am in one, and the other is beſhit.

A young ſpark telling an incredible ſtory, his companions would not believe it, which ſo enraged him, that he haſtily cried out, As I am the ſon of a whore it is true.

One man asked another how he would do to know his own wife from another woman, if ſhe and ſome others were to be put in a room ſtark-naked, and he amongſt them blindfolded? He anſwered, He knew not.—Why then, ſaid he, I will tell you.--How, replies he again? Why, ſaid he, ſtick a clove of garlick in her arſe, and ſmell to it.

A man being ſo talkative, that no one could be heard in company but himſelf, one of the company told him he imagined he had been very ill bred. He then anſwered, He had been very well educated. The other asked him, if he had ever read of the eleventh perſecution?

No,

No, replied he, but I have read of ten, and pray what is the eleventh ?—Why, ſaid the other, that is, To be bound hand and foot, and prated to death by ſuch a fool as you art.

One whoſe name was Jeremiah coming home deſperately drunk, crept in at the bed's feet, and at laſt came up to his wife's bum, where he fell to buſſing and muzzling like mad ; inſomuch that he awaked his wife out of a ſound ſleep ; who gueſſing him to be drunk, according to cuſtom, ſhe cried out Jeremy, Jeremy, you are at the wrong hole Jeremy. And with this he was jeered even to his dying day.

A wanton young fellow having had a vaſt number of ſweethearts, perſwaded them to lie with him, and then would he leave them : But meeting with one that would not condeſcend, he immediatelely married her ; and on the bridal night he told his bride, That had ſhe ever yielded to his luſt, he would never have married her. Ay, ſaid ſhe, indeed I was

I was pretty well aſſured of that; for I have been ſerved ſo divers of times before.

A young ſpendthrift heir, often hearing that an uncle of his was dead, whoſe eſtate he was to inherit, was ſtill diſappointed in his hopes, by the falſity of report; aud at laſt he ſword a great oath, That he would never believe his uncle was dead until he had aſſerted it by his own hand writing.

Some Gentlemen coming to a friend's houſe, he treated him with ſome of his own drink, which was flat; but one of the company praiſing it highly, and being aſked the reaſon, he ſaid, That we ought always to ſpeak well of the dead.

A brazen baggage complained to a magiſtrate, that a certain young man would have raviſhed her. So the juſtice aſked her, if he had tied any part of her body? She ſaid, He did tie her hands, but as for her legs, ſhe kept them as wide as ever ſhe could.

Another

Another falling out with her bosom-friend, complained against him, That he would have forced her. Said the old Justice to her, You have been familiar together a great while, and did he never offer to do it before? Yes, sir, said she, he has done it twenty times, but then I consented, but now he would do it whether I would or no.

A father said to his son, What is your wife quick already? —Yes, said he, a pox on her, she is too quick? for we have been married but a month, and she is ready to lie in.

A gentleman who was once committed to the Tower, being again enlarged, was walking along, and a beggar that had known him, followed him, and begged very heartily of him, saying, Sir, you know that you and I have been in all the prisons in London.—You lie, sirrah, said the gentleman, I was never in any but the Tower. — O sir, said he, and I have been in all the rest.

Two

Two men diſcourſing about their wives one ſaid, He had a very good woman, but ſhe had a bad property; which was that ſhe would fart in bed, and ſtink confoundedly.—O fie! ſaid the other, it is not right to diſcover one's wife's ſecrets; for my wife ſhits in it commonly, and I never ſpeak a word of it.

The learned and ingenious author Sir Richard Steel, who was an Iriſhman, being once aſked, To what cauſe he could attribute his countrymen's making ſo many blunders in ſpeaking? he anſwered, He could not account for it; but he ſuppoſed if an Engliſhman was born there, he would make as many.

A boy told his grandmother, That there was but he, ſhe, and the cat in the houſe, and a curſe take one of us, ſaid he.—O you rogue, ſaid ſhe, what do you curſe my cat?—No, ſaid he.—What do you curſe me, then, ſaid ſhe?—You may be ſure I do not curſe myſelf, grandmother, ſaid he.

A fellow and a wench were got into a crop ef oats, and were buſy about a game of trick-a-trick; but by chance were found out, and had before a Juſtice who having heard their accuſation, and in what private place it was, asked how it came out? meaning how it was diſcovered. The girl dropped a fine courteſy, and ſaid, Sir, he lifted up his arſe, and ſo it came out.

A woman coming out of the country with the carrier, had as nature requireth great occaſiou to eaſe her body; then getting cloſe under a hedge, which ſhe thought convenient for that purpoſe, ſhe was eſpied by a country bumpkin, who asked her, Why ſhe ſat there and laid, and did not cackle? O ſaid ſhe, for fear that you ſhould find out my neſt, and ſuck my eggs.

A jocular gentleman riding along, overtook a country laſs, and breaking of wind, ſaid to the girl, So, here is to thee, ſweetheart, letting a fart. I thank you, ſir,

ſir, ſaid ſhe, and then let another. — Well, quoth he, here's to you again. — I thank you, ſir, ſaid ſhe, to you again. Then ſhe ſays, Come, ſir, put it about, let us haye the other touch. —— Truly, ſaid he, I cannot drink any more. Why then, pray ſir, ſaid ſhe, be pleaſed to kiſs my cup.

An attorney once asked a gentleman, What Honeſty was? — What is that to you, ſaid he? meddle with things that concerns you.

A young fellow in the country after having an affair with a girl in the neighbourhood, cried, What ſhall we do Beſs, if you prove with-child? O very well, ſaid ſhe, for I am to be married to-morrow.

A drunken fellow carrying his wife's bible to pawn for a quartern of gin, the man of the houſe refuſed to take it. — What a pox, ſaid the fellow, Will neither my word, nor the word of God paſs with you?

An

An Iriſhman admiring the ſtately fabrick of St. Paul's, asked, Whether it was made in England, or brought in a ſhip from beyond ſea.

A certain perſon often telling people to kiſs his arſe, another told him, That he was like the picture of the ſnake in the almanack, for he always had his tail in his mouth.

An Iriſhman having a looking glaſs in his hand, ſhut his eyes, and placed it before his face; another asking him, Why he did ſo? Upon my ſoul, ſays Teague, it is to ſee how I look when I'm aſleep.

An exciſeman of Ireland, being one night in the pit in the playhouſe in Dublin the orange girl ſtriding over his back, he put his hands under her petticoats.—Nay, Mr. Exciſeman, ſaid ſhe, you will find no Goods there but what have been fairly entered.

A lady ſeeing a gentlman dance found fault with him, and ſaid he ſtraddled

too

too much.—O madam, replied the gallant, if you had that between your legs that I have, you would ſtraddle a great deal more I dare ſay.

An Iriſhman making love to an Engliſh Lady, told her, he could not ſleep for dreaming of her.

Two men drinking together, one of them asked the other, how his wife did? Truly, ſays he, ſhe has lately had a miſchance and is not well.—Piſh, ſaid the other, that is nothing, for my wife had two together.—How can that be, ſays the other?—Why thus, My wife had a looſeneſs; then having occaſion one night for the chamber pot, which was an earthen one, ſitting a little cloſer, ſhe broke the pot and cut her arſe; and I think they were two great miſchances.

A man went to affront a Doctor of Phyſick, and asked his advice concerning his wife; for ſaid he, She is very much troubled with farting in her ſleep.—The Doctor apprehended the affront, ſaid, I will

will conſider awhile, and then give you an anſwer. — So fetching two or three turns about the room, muſing how he might be even with the other; at laſt he ſays, I can tell you the reaſon, which is, you half ſtarve your poor wife, inſomuch that ſhe is quite hide-bound, ſo that every time her eyes ſhut, her arſe opens;—which was tit for tat.

A butcher driving an ox from the market, the ox proved to be very unruly and ran from the butcher. One running after him, who as it happened was a taylor, the butcher cried out, Turn the ox, turn the ox.—You fool, ſaid the taylor, it is my buſineſs to turn cloaths, and not to turn your oxen.

A man who had no money, and was almoſt choaked with thirſt, went into a cook's ſhop and called for twelve penny loaves, which were brought him, but he wanted drink more than victuals, and ſo he called for a pot of drink, and gave the man a penny loaf for it; and thus he did until his thirſt was quite ſatisfied,

and

and gave for every pennyworth of drink a pennyworth of bread; ſo being very full, up he gets and was for going away.—No, no, ſtay, quoth the cook, Who payeth me for your drink?—Why ſaid he did, did not I give you a pennyworth of bread; for your pennyworth of drink? — Aye, but who pays me for the bread then.—Why ſays he, have you not got your bread back again?

A gentleman's ſon coming up to London to be put apprentice; after he had been ſome conſiderable time bound, he wanted ſhirts. So one day having a fit opportunity, he ſpoke to his miſtreſs, telling her he wanted ſhirts. She told him, ſhe would go to the drapers the next day, and would buy him ſome locram! locram! ſaid he, we do not uſe to wear locram ſhirts in the country.—No, ſaid ſhe, what then?—Linen, quoth he.—At which ſhe laughed heartily.

A man being ſuddenly taken ill, he ſent in haſte for ſome brandy; but the meſſenger ſtaying, the ſick-man fell into

to a paſſion, ſaying he might have been ten times dead in that ſpace.

A Countryman, who had been preſſed for a ſoldier, was engaged in a fight, and at his return being asked, What manly acts he had done? he anſwered, he had cut off one of the enemy's legs. —O ſaid the other, it had been much like a man if you had cut off his head. —O ſaid he that was off before.

A Doctor of phyſic uſually ſaluted all people he met, with theſe words, I am very glad to ſee you well. — At laſt, a perſon told him to his face, That he told a very great lie; for if every body was well, I am certainly ſure it muſt be ill on your ſide.

An old woman lying ſick a prieſt came to her, to read ſomething that might be comfortable to her. Then he asked her what he ſhould read? She ſaid Matrimony; for ſaid ſhe, never any thing more comfortable to me than

that

that was in my youth, and why may it not be ſo in my old age.

A woman being asked by her landlord how may children ſhe had? She anſwered ſixteen.—But how many have you alive, ſaid he. — Truly Sir, I cannot tell; but I will reckon;—Let me ſee, There is my ſon Will, as like his father as can be; and there is Tom my very own picture; and there is another great booby rogue, as like you as one puppy is like another.

A milk maid going over a ſtile, accidentally ſpilt her milk.—O ſaid ſhe, I had rather loſt my maidenhead; for that is recoverable, for I have loſt it a great many times with pleaſure; but my milk is quite loſt.

One being adviſed to venture ſomething in a lottery, he ſaid No; for there was none but cuckolds had good luck in it.—His wife hearing that, ſaid, Try husband try, and I'll warrant you as good ſucceſs as any that ever ventured.

A crafty

A crafty perſon, being over heard and ears in debt, and threatened by his creditors, that they would catch him if he was above ground, he got into a cellar, and there lay with the tapſter, and being reproved for ſo doing, he told them there was no danger of catching him there, becauſe it was under ground, and they durſt not break their oaths, having ſwore that they would have him if he was above ground.

A gentleman that uſed to be very ſmart in his repartees, once had in his hat a fine gallant and rich favour of gold and ſilver ribbon, which ſome young ladies had a vaſt mind to, if they could get it handſomely, and without begging it. And ſo one of them ſaid to him, Sir, you have got a very fine favour in your hat, and ſo they ſaid all.—Pray, madam, ſaid he to the firſt, tell me truly, do you like it? —Yes, indeed, ſir, ſaid ſhe.—Why then, ſaid he, if you had not liked it I would have flung it in the fire; but ſince you ſay you do like it, I proteſt I like it ſo much the better, and am reſolved to keep it for your ſakes, A

A drunkard having but one of his eyes left with drinking, was wanted by phyſicians to leave off tippling, or elſe he would loſe the other eye.—In faith, ſays he, I care not if I do, for I confeſs ingeniouſly, though I have ſeen enough, I have not drank enough.

A tradeſman being about to go abroad, his wife ſtanding near him, putting on his cravat, found ſomething ſtiff againſt her, at which ſhe deſired him to go up ſtairs with her, where ſhe required him to perform a husband's part, which as ſoon as he had done, ſhe gave him a kiſs, and ſaid, Methinks, John you were in a fine caſe to go abroad; do you think that you was not?

A gentleman coming into a room, in which a beautiful chamber-maid was a ſtarching and clapping her lady's linen, he was extraordinary kind in his actions to her; and ſhe to ſhew her willingneſs, kept clapping her hands over his back all the time he was doing his buſineſs, as if ſhe was clapping her linen, to pre-

vent

vent her lady hearing, who was in the next room.

A very lean gentleman meeting his ſervant-maid, who was very handſome, when alone, making a bed, fain would have laid her down to have a trial of skill with her, but ſhe reſiſted, Saying, She wondered he would offer any ſuch thing. He eagerly ſaid, Fleſh and blood could not forbear. But his wife being in the next room, ſhe overheard, and replied, But methinks skin and bones ought.

FINIS.